

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCERS use only

received

JUL 14 1980

date entered

SEP 17 1980

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 12

1. Historic name: Michigan State Capitol Ref. # 71000396
2. Location: Capitol Avenue at Michigan Avenue
3. Classification:  
 Category: building  
 Ownership: public  
 Status: occupied  
 Use: government
4. Owner: State of Michigan, Department of Management and Budget, Bureau of Facilities, Property Management Division, Stevens T. Mason Bldg., P.O. Box 30026, Lansing, Michigan
7. Description:  
 Condition: good  
 Altered  
 Original site

The State Capitol is a monumental, four-story building in the Renaissance Revival Style surmounted by a white-painted, cast-iron dome patterned in a general way after the dome of the United States Capitol. Cruciform in plan, the Capitol is 420 feet in length and 274 feet in width, including the porticoes and exterior staircases. The symmetrical facade is of buff-colored, Ohio sandstone and has a rusticated ground story and upper walls treated with Tuscan, Ionic, and Corinthian orders.

The interior's major public rooms and spaces remain essentially as originally constructed. These spaces include the rotunda (which, above the ground floor, is open to the top of the dome), the two-story Senate and House of Representatives chambers, the Supreme Court chamber, and the public hallways. The interior's original, lavish decorative scheme--comprising formal carved doorways and other woodwork designed in the Italian Renaissance Revival style; painted, polychromatic wall treatments; and chandeliers and other fittings bearing emblems symbolic of the state--remains intact.

8. Significance:  
 Period: 1800-1899  
 Areas of significance: Architecture, Politics/government  
 Specific dates: 1872-1878  
 Architect: E. E. Myers

The Michigan State Capitol is probably the most significant structure in Lansing both in historic and architectural terms. Begun in 1872 and completed late in 1878, the Capitol has served as the center of Michigan's state government since its dedication on January 1, 1879. Symbolic of the growth in the state's wealth and population in the generation since Lansing's first capitol was erected in 1847, the present Capitol is Michigan's most ambitious and outstanding Late Victorian civic monument.

(Continued)

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## Michigan State Capitol (continued)

Elijah E. Myers drafted the plans for the Capitol. Myers (1832-1909) was one of the more prominent, Late Victorian architects of the Midwest. During his long career—mainly in Springfield, Illinois and in Detroit—he designed the state capitols of Michigan, Texas, and Colorado; courthouses, city halls, jails, hospitals, and other public buildings throughout the Midwest and occasionally as far distant as Colorado and California; and numerous residences.

## 9. Bibliography:

Bours, Allen L. Proceedings at the Laying of the Corner Stone of the New Capitol of Michigan, On the 2d Day of October, 1873, at the City of Lansing. Lansing: W. S. George & Co., 1873

Lowery, William. Michigan State Capitol. National Register nomination, 1970

Wilson, Mary Jane McClintock. The Watch of the Capitol. Lansing: Michigan Department of Education, State Library Services, 1979.

## 10. Geographical data:

Acreage: 14 acres

UTM References:

A: 16 699990 4734020  
B: 16 700230 4734020  
C: 16 700235 4733800  
D: 16 699995 4733800

Verbal boundary description and justification:

Block 249 in the City of Lansing Original Plat. This is the capitol square.



Downtown Lansing Multiple Resource Area

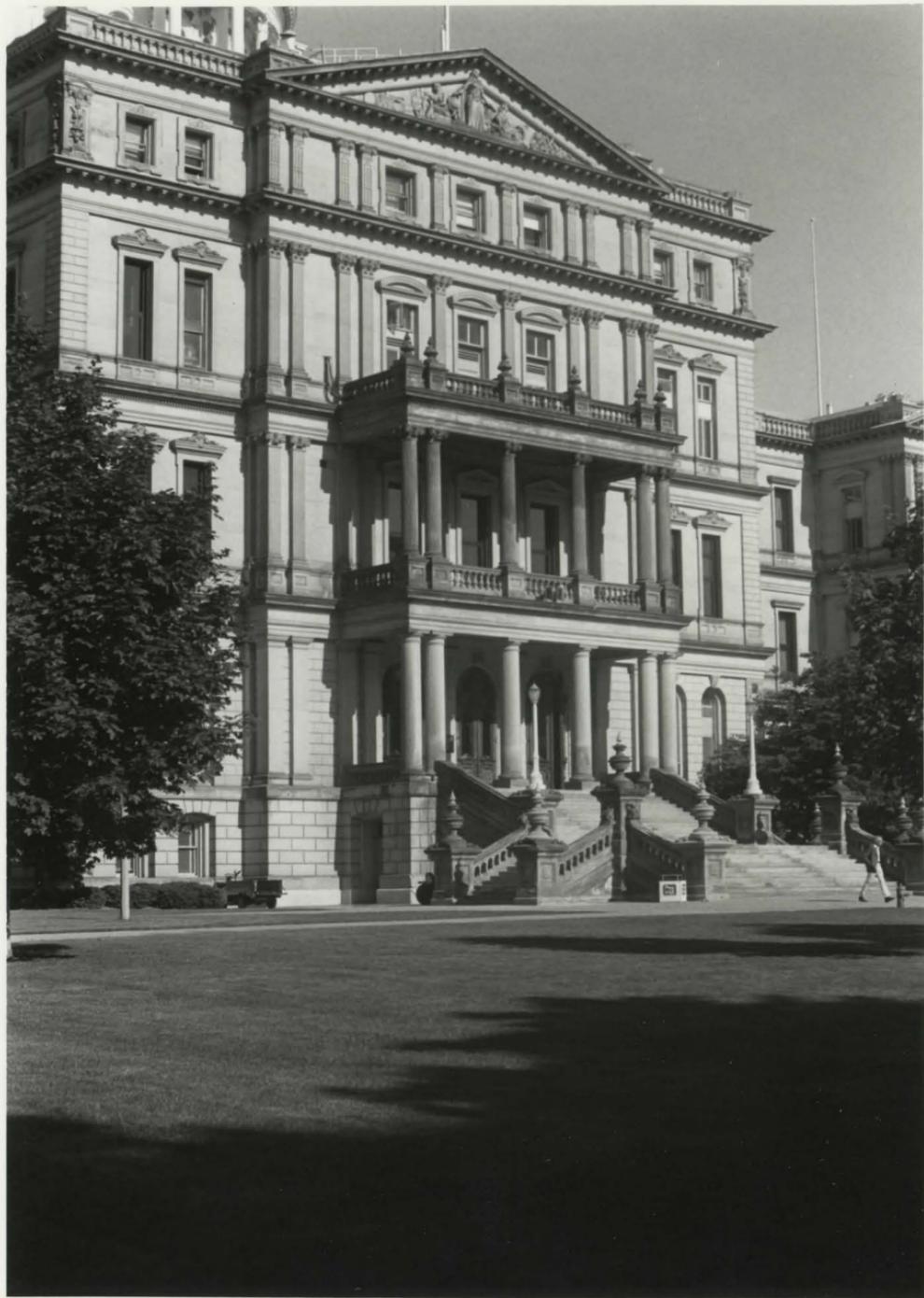
Michigan State Capitol  
Capitol Ave. at Michigan Ave.  
Lansing, Ingham Co., Michigan

R. O. Christensen                      June, 1980  
Neg. filed: Michigan History Division

View from southeast  
Photo 1 of 26

SEP 17 1980

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Downtown Lansing Multiple Resource Area

Michigan State Capitol  
Capitol Ave. at Michigan Ave.  
Lansing, Ingham Co., Michigan

R. O. Christensen                      June, 1980  
Neg. filed: Michigan History Division

Central block from southeast  
Photo 2 of 26

SEP 17 1980

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Downtown Lansing Multiple Resource Area

Michigan State Capitol  
Capitol Ave. at Michigan Ave.  
Lansing, Ingham Co., Michigan

R. O. Christensen                      June, 1980  
Neg. filed: Michigan History Division

South end block from northeast  
Photo 3 of 26

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Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000322